



Air Force Reserve's first Associate KC-135 Unit

18th members deploy to support Operation Noble Anvil

Seven members of the 18th Air Refueling Squadron are participating in exercises relating to potential NATO operations in Kosovo.

Three 18th members augmented a force of approximately 100 members of the 22nd Air Refueling Wing, McConnell Air Force Base's active duty refueling wing, in refueling operations as part of the

movement of aircraft to U.S. bases in Europe. The 931st also provided one complete, four-person aircrew to assist the mission through a separate requirement.

Lt. Col. Ron Johnston, the 18th's operations officer, said the complete crew was on a two-week rotation that would be replaced by another 931st crew after the initial hitch.

--Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

931st enters drug testing program

Unit previously exempt during standup phase

The medical office reports that February's random urinalysis testing is a permanent change.

Personnel will be selected at random on a quarterly basis for urinalysis.

Thirty-eight 931st personnel submitted to surprise urinalysis during the February UTA.

Personnel who have been selected and tested once are not precluded from being selected again.

Tech. Sgt. Paul Hudson, an aeromedical technician assigned to the 931st, said it is important for reservists to have complete, updated records on medications they are taking to avoid problems with urinalysis.

The testing is nothing new for the Air Force Reserve, but the 931st had previously been exempt during its initial three-year stand up phase.

For questions regarding urinalysis, stop by the medical office during regular UTA business hours.

--Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Group t-shirts on sale during March UTA

Group t-shirts are on sale through the end of the March UTA. The black shirts, which can be worn under BDUs, will feature the Kanza logo encircled with the group's name and McConnell AFB KS. The emblem will be a 3 1/2" multicolor silk-screen print on

the left breast of a heavyweight, 100% preshrunk cotton Fruit of the Loom T-shirt. Shirts must be prepaid (\$10 ea) and will be delivered on the April UTA. A S-XXL size

See t-shirts, page 6



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Master Sgt. John Penhorwood of the 931st Civil Engineer Squadron shows some of the gifts he received during his retirement ceremony held during the February UTA. Penhorwood completed a career that began in 1959, including serving in two branches. Penhorwood served in the Army National Guard and Air Force Reserve beginning in 1981, after an 18 year break from service.



A slight change in vector

By Col. Dean J. Despinoy
931st ARG commander

The 931st has done an outstanding job in its short history since it was reactivated in 1995. We have fought our way through difficult times without being given all the tools we might have hoped for. Our growth continues and we have been looking ahead in hopes of finally getting a wing structure. Well, that wing structure may be delayed.

Last week I was informed by General Whaley that negotiations have been going on to try to place the 513th ACG (the AWACs associate unit that is currently administratively supported by the 507th Air Refueling Wing at Tinker), under the 507th as a subordinate group. This would allow the 507th Wing Commander position to become a general's billet. Air Combat Command blocked the move and as a result, in order to save the general's billet, the 931st has been aligned under the 507th.

It is easy to be discouraged by this move, however, there should be very little change to the way we do business. No one's job will be eliminated and we will stay in control of our flying time and budget.

Personnel promotion actions that heretofore went directly to 4th Air Force and pooled together with the Regional Support Group will now be considered with the 507 ARW. Therefore, PEP boards and PRFs will now be considered in a smaller sample size of personnel, which could benefit us. When the 507th has a PEP board we will have some of our members on the board, when our records went directly to 4th AF we were lumped together with the RSG and had no representation on the



Maj. Charles Peters/Special to the Spirit

Col. Dean Despinoy on the phone during the recent Organizational Readiness Exercise for the 22nd ARW and the 931st.

board. The PRFs will now go to the BG at the 507th instead of going to Gen Whaley. Once again we will be in a smaller sample size and therefore instead of meeting the board with a commander's score of 15/30/45 you might be 2/5/8.

Our relationship with the 22 ARW will also remain as it has been. We will continue to be separately tasked but try to help the 22nd whenever possible. We will continue to be linked with the 22nd as an associate unit and take our evaluations and ORIs with them, not the 507th.

The 507th change of command will take place on Saturday, 6 March. After the change of command, I will be able to release

the general's name who will be assuming command of the 507 Wing. I can tell you that I know him personally and anticipate a great relationship.

Since the announcement I have talked to many of you and know your concerns. The bottom line is this decision should not be misconstrued as a slap in the face. It was more of being in the wrong place at the right time, or more to the point, in the wrong structure at the right time. As an unattached group we were prime pickings for this kind of alignment. Continue to do the outstanding job you always have and all the other things will work themselves out, including becoming our own wing.

Kanza Spirit

Volume 4, No. 3

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for member of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Kanza Spirit* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government or the Department of the Air Force. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 931st Public Affairs office at (316) 652-3616 or DSN 743-3616, fax: (316) 652-3393 or DSN 743-3393. All photos are Air Force unless otherwise indicated.

931st Commander
Col. Dean Despinoy

Chief, Public Affairs
Capt. Dave Fruck

NCOIC, Public Affairs
Tech. Sgt. Brian Bowman

Editor
Staff Sgt. Barbara Davis

Staff Writer
Staff Sgt. David Brumley



SPiRiT Spotlight

Name: Scott C. Snyder
Rank: Captain
From: Perryton, Texas
Unit: 931st Air Refueling Squadron
Duty Title: Navigator
Civilian Position: High School Social Studies Teacher
Favorite Food: Barbeque Ribs
Favorite Music: Christian Contemporary
Favorite Movie: "Hunt for Red October"
Hobbies: Officiating football and trading card collecting.
Ideal vacation: Going snow skiing.
Best way to relax: Going for walks with my wife.
Pet Peeve: People who whine.
What would you do with \$1 million?: Pay off debts and travel around the world.



Staff Sgt. David Brumley/Spirit

Personnel News....

Military Personnel Flight Hours

The core hours of operation for the MPF are as follows:

Monday – Friday 0730 – 1600
Saturday – UTA 0800 – 1600
Sunday – UTA 1000 – 1600

Outprocessing Hours

If you, or any unit member you know,

needs to out process for TDY, reassignment, or retirement, please keep in mind that on UTA weekends the Military Pay section (Ms Sharon Thayer) is only open for business on Saturdays from 0730 to 1300 hours. Thinking ahead can insure you do not have to come out during the week to finish your out processing. For further information contact TSgt Anick Wallace in Relocations at X-3665.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE DD FORM 93, RECORD OF EMERGENCY DATA?

The DD Form 93 provides information on the Primary Next of Kin (PNOK), Secondary Next of Kin (SNOK), and other persons to notify in case of death, injury, or an emergency. This form also serves as the official document required by law for designating beneficiaries for death gratuity pay and unpaid pay and allowances.

See Personnel, page 7

Refer a Friend

There are positions available within the 931st ARG. Help your unit recruit by providing them a name of a friend or have them contact Tech. Sgt. David McCormick at 652-4350, Master Sgt. Terry Gosh at 652-3766, or one of their area recruiters listed below.



Tinker AFB, OK

Master Sgt. Victor Bradford (405) 739-2980
 Technical Sgt. Rhonda Nolan (405) 734-5331

Lawton, OK

Technical Sgt. Nathan Bickle (405) 357-2784

Sheppard AFB, TX

Master Sgt. Larry Giles (817) 6763382

Midwest City, OK

Master Sgt. Linda Smith (405) 733-9403
 Staff Sgt. William Thompson

UTA Schedule

March	13-14
April	10-11
May	1-2
June	12-13
July	17-18
Aug.	14-15
Sep.	18-19



ORE Snapshots



Members of the 931st ARG participated with the 22nd ARW in an Organizational Readiness Exercise in February. The ORE is a prelude to April's Organizational Readiness Inspection.

Photos by Chap. Charles Peters/Special to the Spirit



Clockwise from top left -- Chaplain Charles Peters is ready for a chemical attack; Maj. Steve Kett is startled to be caught by the photographer; Master Sgts. Joseph Gonsolves and John Boulett near the flightline; Tech. Sgt. Francisco Avila with his M-16, guarding the flightline; Tech. Sgt. Steven Marshall at the end of a long day; and Tech. Sgt. Marty Curry tears into an MRE for lunch.



Access unclassified Intelligence with a click

By Staff Sgt. Russ Hunt
and Maj. Steve Kett
931st ARG Intel

Have you ever had a question about an international situation or a current event and not known where to look?

Have you ever been off-station, at home, or at your civilian job, and had questions?

Have you ever been working on a degree program, a professional military education course, or has your boss asked you about a current event and needed the

information?

Here's the solution for you! 2nd Lt. Jeff Jeskie developed a simple, easy to use, on-line directory of web sites for the 931st Intelligence Directorate. These web sites reside on the unit's local area network. This unclassified site provides a wealth of information on virtually every event of interest worldwide!

To access this awesome database, simply turn on your computer, double click on the My Computer icon, then double click on the Public 1 on 'iab03' (M:) (the M drive). This will take you



to the Public folders. Then select the Intelligence folder. Chose between two files: the Intelligence Oversight briefing or Intelligence Web sites. Upon opening individual folders you will find a

word document. Click on the word document and you will see a list of unclassified "Intelligence related" web sites. All sites have hyperlinks to the specific web page.

The rest is up to you: whether you want information on North Korea, Iraq, Kosovo, Russia, Europe, Asia, Terrorism, Information Warfare, or News updates. It's all there in the Unclassified Intelligence file on the M drive.

For more information, contact SSgt Russ Hunt at ext 3369 or 4827. Enjoy, Happy hunting!

New computer system streamlines travel process

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Does this temporary duty checklist sound familiar? Request orders. Call travel. Make rental car, hotel and airline reservations. Get a cash advance. Pick up tickets. Pack. Go. Come back. Save receipts. File voucher. Check mail for travel pay. There is relief in sight.

The Defense Department's new temporary duty travel system, set to be fielded worldwide by 2001, is "quicker, easier and better" than the current system with all its forms and vouchers, according to Army Col. Albert E. Arnold III.

Arnold, head of the Defense Travel System Project Management Office here, said the new computer-based system streamlines the entire travel process. Everything from getting orders to making hotel and airline reservations to filing reimbursement vouchers is done electronically.

"Everyone will love it," Arnold promised. "Travelers will be able to make reservations right from their desktops. Where today you talk to the travel agent by phone or in person, you'll be able to see all your choices right on your desktop." Travelers with no access to a computer at work will be able to make their travel arrangements and file their travel vouchers at their unit's administrative center.

Getting reimbursed for travel expenses will also be faster and easier, he said. "You'll just file your voucher straight from your desktop without inputting travel data

a second time."

Currently, once the temporary duty is complete, the specific travel details are entered onto a DD Form 1351-2 voucher. With the new system, the information will be entered into a database once. Some information, such as accounting classifications, will be preloaded into the program to be selected from pull-down menus. Returning travelers will have to update only changes to their itinerary, Arnold said.

Once the voucher is complete, the traveler will electronically forward it to his direct supervisor for approval. "The beauty of the system is that it will be a completely paperless process from end to end," he noted.

The new system also eliminates the need for filing receipts for travel expenses. The receipts must be maintained, but they need not be filed with the voucher. Travelers must keep receipts for all lodging costs and for expenses over \$75, Arnold said. "The honor system now covers expenses under \$75."

"Should somebody want to see them in the future — the authorizing official, your boss, a reviewer or auditor — then you'll need to produce them, much as the same as you do for your income tax. If you get audited by the IRS and you can't produce a receipt, you lose. The same thing will be true for the defense travel system."

The new system is based on the premise that both travelers and supervisors are

honest and responsible, Arnold said. In revamping the system, defense officials eliminated layers of approval authorities, giving supervisors authority to approve temporary duty travel and travel vouchers.

Each agency and organization will determine where this authority will be vested, but it should go to the lowest level supervisor that has the responsibility and resources (time, people, and travel budget) to perform the given mission.

"The person who's now going to review your claim for payment is going to be your first line supervisor," Arnold said. "He or she knows how much he or she can trust you. They're going to look at your claim, much the same as the Defense Finance and Accounting Service does today."

Another change to the system eliminates the need to certify official telephone calls, a requirement dating back to 1939. Under the new system, he said, official telephone calls will be listed as a separate reimbursable expense on travel vouchers.

Defense officials are planning an extensive training program to acquaint travelers with the new procedures, Arnold said. "Our office will train trainers in different units around the world who will then train their units. They can then incorporate any local procedures that might be necessary." Online help will also be available, he added.

DOD's POW/Missing Personnel Affairs

see **System** page 7



'Thunder in the Heartland' coming

McConnell Air Force Base will be hosting an airshow and other aviation events from June 11-16.

Kicking off the six days of events will be a military ball at Century II on June 11. The airshow, titled "Thunder in the Heartland," will be June 12-13. Among the weekend highlights include the Army's Golden Knights parachute team and the Tora! Tora! Tora! vintage aircraft show.

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will be at McConnell June 14-16, with their public show on June 16.

The 931st ARG point of contact for the airshow is Capt. Dave Fruck, (316) 652-3704. Here's a schedule:

Military and Civilian Ball -- Friday, 11 June, Century II.

Open House and Air Show -- 12-13 June, McConnell KANG, Kan. Air Museum; Displays, Walk-through tours of military planes; concessions and family activities.

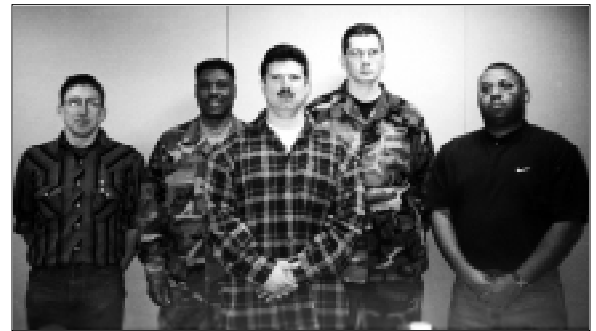
Saturday night reception -- all base invited.

Golf tournament with Thunderbirds -- 14 June, Wichita Country Club.

Rededication of McConnell AFB -- 14 June, Honoring the third McConnell Brother.

USAF Tops in Blue Performance -- 15 June, Century II, musical review by active duty Air Force.

USAF Thunderbirds Air Show -- 16 June, McConnell F-16 Precision Air Show.



Photos by Staff Sgt. David Brumley

System from page 5

Office in Washington was one of the pilot test sites. Budget officer Angela M. Talaber there praised the new electronic system, particularly the speed with which people are paid -- in some cases, within a day or two.

"If finance pays the voucher in the afternoon, most times the money goes to the Federal Reserve Bank the next day," Talaber said. "Within two days the money is direct-deposited in the traveler's bank account. I've had folks who filed a voucher at 7 a.m. and it was

processed and paid the same day." The travel system is being lab tested to ensure all the technology works, Arnold said. "We're really kicking the tires to make sure the system works the way we want it to work before we field it to anyone else."

By 2000, defense officials expect to put the system at bases overseas.

For more information about the new system, visit the Defense Travel System Project Office Internet home page at <http://www.dtic.mil/travelink/>.

From the Family Readiness office

We have new faces in our Family Readiness office! Stop by Building 850, Room 104 to welcome Staff Sgt. Tina Proulx -- from AGS and Staff Sgt. Jonathon Wood -- from Tinker Air Force Base, Okla.

These individuals are available during UTA weekends to provide

assistance with a multitude of family issues, including Stress Management, Family Budgeting, Parenting and much more.

Contact Family Readiness at (316) 652-5989 if you have questions or need assistance.

t-shirts from page 5

run is available for fitting.

Shirts will be on sale during the UTA at the following times and locations:

Bldg 850 -- Break Room

Saturday and Sunday, 1030-1130
AGS -- Roll Call Saturday, 0730
CES -- Commander's Call Sunday, 0830

For orders prior to the UTA, see Maj Terri Kett, Bldg 850 Command Suite.

Newcomers

Top photo, new AGS (from left); Tech. Sgt. Steven Swiercinsky; Tech. Sgt. Raymond Patterson; Staff Sgt. Edwin Espinoza; Staff Sgt. Michael Haggitt; Staff Sgt. Preston Brown.

Second photo, new 18th ARS (from left); Capt. Mark Ryals and Matthew Mantei.

Bottom left photo, new CES; Staff Sgt. Morris Findley.

Bottom right photo, new MSF; Senior Airman Lareina Waldorf-Schmitt.

Reminder

Tech. Sgt. Rick Fischer of the Security Forces element of the 931st Operations Support Flight wishes to remind those driving to the UTA to use designated parking spots. Fischer said that security forces will issue parking citations to vehicles which are improperly parked.



Certificates honor Cold War warriors

WASHINGTON — Between 18 million and 22 million former and current service members are eligible to receive certificates honoring them for their parts in winning the Cold War.

The Army — the executive agent for the program — will start taking applications on April 5. The Army will accept applications for the certificate by Internet (at <http://sdcw.army.mil/coldwar>), e-mail, fax and mail. Shari Lawrence, a U.S. Army Total Army Personnel Command spokesperson, said the addresses will be released around March 15.

“If we put the addresses out now, people will start sending in applications and we’re not ready to accept them yet,” she said. Applicants must use fax or mail to submit supporting documents. The Army has printed 1 million certificates.

“We just don’t know how many people will apply for the

certificates,” Lawrence said.

Persons are eligible for the recognition certificate if they have military or civilian service with the War, Navy or Defense departments between Sept. 2, 1945, and Dec. 26, 1991. Applicants with citing military service can present the following records as proof: DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty); WD AGO Form 53-55 (War Department Separation Document); or Oath of Office — Military Personnel or Letter of Appointment. Copies of these records can be obtained by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100.

(Defense Press Service)

**3-on-3 hoops
tournament, 4 p.m.,
March 13, Emerald
City**

Chapel Service

UTA Sundays, 0745-0815

Bldg. 850, upstairs conference room

Maj. Charles Peters, Chaplain

Personnel *from pg. 3*

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (HRDC)

The HRDC meets every Friday before the UTA at 1545 in the Southwind Conference Room. Anyone wishing to have an issue addressed to the council may forward it to the council through their unit representative. Commanders and First Sergeants are always welcome to attend.

ENLISTED PME OPPORTUNITIES

Airman Leadership School (in-residence): We have 2 remaining class dates for FY’99. They are Class 99-F on 1 Jun – 2 Jul 99, and 99-G on 27 Jul – 27 Aug 99. Interested SRA should contact Group Training for an application.

GROUP TRAINING BULLETIN BOARD

Group Training now has a section on the Bulletin board under McConnell’s public folders. Topics include Enlisted PME, Officer PME, Formal School, Computer

Training and much more! Please take a minute to check out all of the information now available to you. We are still in the “growing stages”; if there is a topic not listed you feel would be valuable, please let us know!

WHY ARE YOU LEAVING THE RESERVES?

A command-wide questionnaire has been implemented to give Commanders and HQ AFRC a true picture of why individuals are leaving their respective unit or the active reserves. Effective immediately, the Relocation Section of the MSF will be unable to process any type reassignment action without a copy of the questionnaire. The following will be the reasons used.

- My military skills were not being utilized
- Lack of skills training (hands-on training)
- Conflicts within unit
- Promotion stagnation
- Lack of recognition or awards
- Excessive outside demands to allow continued participation in the Reserve

- Quality of life in the AF Reserve wasn’t what I expected
- Misled about AFSC responsibilities/duties
- Excessive mission demands
- Excessive ancillary training
- Career dissatisfaction
- Lack of civilian employer support
- Conflict with civilian school
- Conflict with civilian employment
- Conflict with family

The Unit Career Advisor or the full-time ART will ensure this questionnaire is accomplished, then in-turn provides the unit commander the survey and request letter or form for endorsement prior to continued action.

RETRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Looking for a change? If you are looking for or thinking of a career change, stop by the Personnel Employment section of the Military Personnel Flight. The following positions are looking for motivated personnel to fill them:

3E452; 3E052; 3E051; 1S071;
1N0X1; 2A655; 3P0X1.



WICHITA WEEKEND

IN TOWN

Friday, March 12

Wichita Thunder hockey -- Topeka Scarecrows at Wichita, 7:30 p.m., Kansas Coliseum (located 7 miles north of Wichita on I-135).

Saturday, March 13

March Madness 3-on-3 basketball tournament --

The tournament, with men's and women's brackets, will start at 4 p.m. at Emerald City's basketball court. Refreshments and awards after the championship games. Come cheer on your 931st ARG friends in this "friendly" competitive tournament.

Wichita Wings soccer -- Harrisburg Heat at Wichita, 7:35 p.m., Kansas Coliseum.

Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita -- present "Romeo and Juliet," Miller Concert Hall, Wichita State University, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 14

Wichita Thunder hockey -- Ft. Worth Fire at Wichita, 6 p.m., Kansas Coliseum.

Metropolitan Ballet of Wichita -- present "Romeo and Juliet," Miller Concert Hall, Wichita State University, 3 p.m.

LIVE THEATRE

Crown Uptown Dinner Theatre

"Singing in the Rain" Feb. 4 -- Mar. 28

Call 681-1566 for dinner and showtimes.

	<u>MAFB</u>	<u>Gate</u>
Thurs. & Sun.	\$21.45	\$24.30
Fri. & Sat.	\$24.45	\$27.48

ON BASE

UTA Movies

All Movies \$1.50; All times 7 p.m.; doors open 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 12 -- *SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE* -- (Sarah Michelle Gellar, Sean Patrick Fanery); Amanda and Tom seem to have nothing in common. A mysterious crab seller, a chance meeting in a food market and something magical are about to change their lives and brings them together. **Rated PG-13** (*brief sexual references*); 96 minutes.

Saturday, March 13 -- *VARSITY BLUES* -- (James Van der Beek, Jon Voight); High School football is king in small town Texas, where 17-year old schoolboys carry the hopes of an entire community onto the gridiron every Friday night. **Rated R** (*strong language, sexuality, nudity and some substance abuse*) 106 minutes.

Sunday, March 14 -- *AT FIRST SIGHT* -- (Val Kilmer, Mira Sorvino); When New York City architect Amy falls in love with blind, charismatic masseur Virgil, she convinces him to undergo experimental surgery that will allow him to see the world as she sees it ... in all its chaotic, colorful glory. **Rated PG--13** (*scenes involving sexuality, nudity, brief strong language*) 129 minutes.

The Ticket and Tour office at McConnell Air Force Base has discount tickets on dozens of events in the Wichita Community and surrounding area, including movies, theatre, sports trips and other tours.

For information on what is available, contact the office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The numbers are (316) 652-6007 and 652-6038.